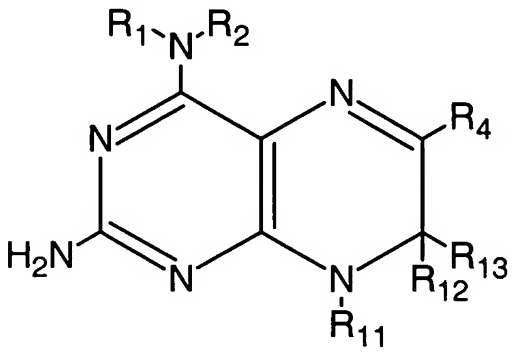
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (New) A compound of formula I, stereoisomeric and tautomeric forms and mixtures thereof in all ratios, and physiologically tolerated salts, hydrates and esters thereof:



(I)

wherein:

R_1 is chosen from hydrogen, (C_1-C_{20})-alkyl, (C_1-C_{20})-alkenyl, (C_1-C_{20})-alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and arylalkyl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

R_2 is chosen from, independently of R_1, hydrogen, (C_1-C_{20})-alkyl, (C_1-C_{20})-alkenyl, (C_1-C_{20})-alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and arylalkyl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent, or

R_1 and R_2 may, together with the nitrogen atom bearing them, form a 3-8-membered ring which may optionally contain 0, 1 or 2 further heteroatoms chosen from N, O, and S, and which is optionally substituted by at least one radical,

R_4 is chosen from $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkylaryl, arylalkyl, -CO-O-alkyl, -CO-O-aryl, -CO-alkyl, and -CO-aryl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

R_{11} is chosen from hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkyl, aryl, -CO-alkyl, and -CO-aryl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

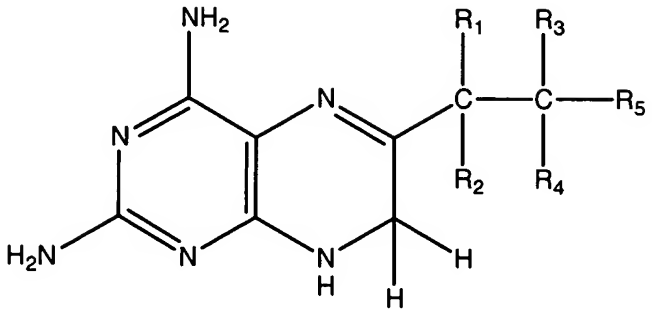
R_{12} and R_{13} are independently chosen from hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$-alkyl, aryl, -O-$(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$-alkyl, -O-phenyl, -O-CO-$(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$-alkyl, -O-CO-aryl, $-NR_8R_9$, phenyl, -CO-$(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$-alkyl, $-CF_3$, -CN, $-CONR_8R_9$, -COOH, -CO-O-$(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$-alkyl, -CO-O-aryl, -F and –Cl,

R_8 is chosen from hydrogen and $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkyl,

R_9 is chosen from hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkyl, and aryl, and

n is 0, 1 or 2,

with the proviso that compounds of the formula (Ia)



(Ia) are excluded,

wherein in formula (Ia) R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently chosen from H and OH,

R_5 is chosen from H, CH_3, CH_2OH, CHO, a lower (C_1-C_9) alkyl radical, which can be a straight or a branched chain, $(CH(OH))_n$-Y and $(CH(OH))_n$-$(CH_2)_m$-W, wherein Y is hydrogen or a lower alkyl (C_1-C_9) radical, W is hydrogen or a hydroxyl group, and n and m are independently from each other 1-20.

24. (New) The compound of claim 23, wherein:

R_1 is hydrogen,

R_2 is chosen from hydrogen, (C_1-C_{20})-alkyl and cycloalkylalkyl,

R_4 is chosen from phenyl, (C_1-C_{20})-alkylphenyl and (C_{12}-C_{20})-alkyl which is optionally substituted with -OH, alkyloxy or halogen, and

R_{11}, R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

25. (New) The compound of claim 23, wherein:

R_1 is chosen from cycloalkylalkyl, optionally substituted with $(C_1$-$C_5)$-alkyl, and $(C_1$-$C_5)$-O-alkyl,

R_2 is hydrogen,

R_4 is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl and

R_{11}, R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

26. (New) The compound of claim 25, wherein R_1 is chosen from cyclohexylmethyl and cylcohexylethyl.

27. (New) The compound of claim 23, wherein:

R_1 is hydrogen,

R_2 is chosen from hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_{20})$-alkyl and cycloalkylalkyl,

R_4 is chosen from phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{20})$-alkylphenyl and $(C_1$-$C_{20})$-alkyl which is optionally substituted with -OH, $(C_1$-$C_{20})$-alkyloxy or halogen,

R_{11} is $(C_1$-$C_5)$-alkyl, which is optionally substituted,

R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and $(C_1$-$C_5)$-alkyl, which is optionally substituted.

28. (New) The compound of claim 27, wherein:

R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen,

R_4 is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl

R_{11} is chosen from methyl and ethyl, and

R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

29. (New) The compound of claim 23, wherein:

R_1 is chosen from cycloalkylalkyl, optionally substituted with $(C_1$-$C_5)$-alkyl, and $(C_1$-$C_5)$-O-alkyl,

R_2 is hydrogen,

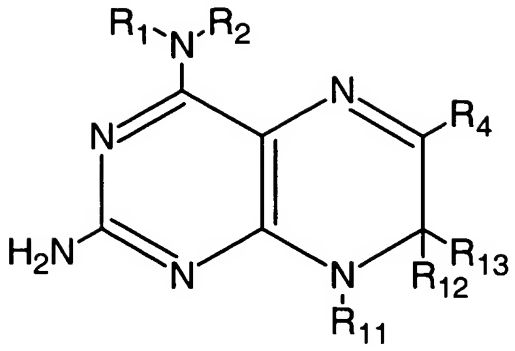
R_4 is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl, and

R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

30. (New) The compound of claim 29, wherein R_1 is chosen from cyclohexylmethyl and cyclohexylethyl.

31. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent and a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to claim 23, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt thereof.

32. (New) A method of treating a disorder associated with an increased nitric oxide (NO) level, comprising administering to the subject a therapeutically sufficient amount of a compound of formula I, stereoisomeric and tautomeric forms and mixtures thereof in all ratios, and physiologically tolerated salts, hydrates and esters thereof,:



(I)

wherein in formula (I)

R_1 is chosen from hydrogen, (C_1-C_{20})-alkyl, (C_1-C_{20})-alkenyl, (C_1-C_{20})alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and arylalkyl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

R_2 is chosen from, independently of R_1, hydrogen, (C_1-C_{20})-alkyl, (C_1-C_{20})-alkenyl, (C_1-C_{20})-alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, and arylalkyl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

R_1 and R_2 may, together with the nitrogen atom bearing them, form a 3-8-membered ring which may optionally contain 0, 1 or 2 further heteroatoms chosen from N, O, and S, and which is optionally substituted by at least one radical,

R_4 is chosen from $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkenyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkynyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkenyl, cycloalkylalkyl, aryl, alkylaryl, arylalkyl, -CO-O-alkyl, -CO-O-aryl, -CO-alkyl, and -CO-aryl, wherein the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

R_{11} is chosen from hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkylaryl, aryl, arylalkyl, -CO-alkyl, -CO-aryl, where the organic radicals may be substituted by at least one substituent,

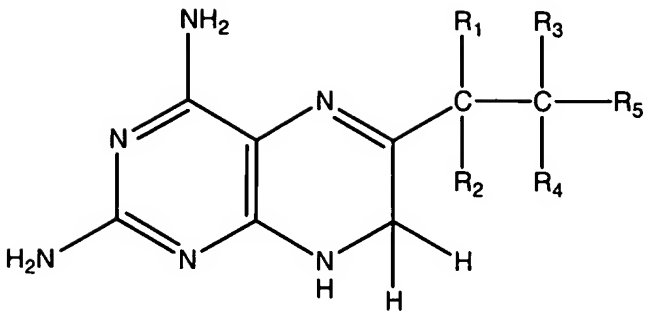
R_{12} and R_{13} are independently chosen from hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_5)$-alkyl, aryl, -O-$(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$-alkyl, -O-phenyl, -O-CO-$(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$-alkyl, -O-CO-aryl, $-NR_8R_9$, phenyl, -CO-$(C_1\text{-}C_5)$-alkyl, $-CF_3$, -CN, $-CONR_8R_9$, -COOH, -CO-O-$(C_1\text{-}C_5)$-alkyl, -CO-O-aryl, -F and –Cl

R_8 is hydrogen or $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkyl, preferably $(C_1\text{-}C_5)$-alkyl,

R_9 is hydrogen, $(C_1\text{-}C_{20})$-alkyl, preferably $(C_1\text{-}C_5)$-alkyl or aryl, preferably phenyl, and

n is 0, 1 or 2,

with the proviso that compounds of the formula (Ia)



(Ia) are excluded,

wherein in formula (Ia) R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 are independently chosen from H and OH,

R_5 is chosen from H, CH_3, CH_2OH, CHO, a lower (C_1-C_9) alkyl radical, which can be a straight or a branched chain, $(CH(OH))_n$-Y, and $(CH(OH))_n$-$(CH_2)_m$-W, wherein Y is hydrogen or a lower alkyl (C_1-C_9) radical, W is hydrogen or a hydroxyl group, an n and m are independently from each other 1-20.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein in the compound of formula (I)

R_1 is hydrogen,

R_2 is chosen from hydrogen, (C_1-C_{20})-alkyl and cycloalkylalkyl,

R_4 is chosen from phenyl, (C_1-C_{20})-alkylphenyl and (C_{12}-C_{20})-alkyl which is optionally substituted with -OH, alkyloxy or halogen, and

R_{11}, R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein in the compound of formula (I)

R_1 is chosen from cycloalkylalkyl, optionally substituted with (C_1-C_5)-alkyl, and (C_1-C_5)-O-alkyl,

R_2 is hydrogen,

R_4 is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl and

R_{11}, R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein in the compound of formula (I) R_1 is chosen from cyclohexylmethyl and cyclohexylethyl.

36. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein in the compound of formula (I)

R_1 is hydrogen,

R_2 is chosen from hydrogen, $(C_1$-$C_{20})$-alkyl and cycloalkylalkyl,

R_4 is chosen from phenyl, $(C_1$-$C_{20})$-alkylphenyl and $(C_1$-$C_{20})$-alkyl which is optionally substituted with -OH, $(C_1$-$C_{20})$-alkyloxy or halogen,

R_{11} is $(C_1$-$C_5)$-alkyl, which is optionally substituted,

R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and $(C_1$-$C_5)$-alkyl, which is optionally substituted.

37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein in the compound of formula (I)

R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen,

R_4 is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl

R_{11}, is chosen from methyl and ethyl, and

R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

38. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein in the compound of formula (I)

R_1 is chosen from cycloalkylalkyl, optionally substituted with $(C_1\text{-}C_5)$-alkyl, and $(C_1\text{-}C_5)$-O-alkyl,

R_2 is hydrogen,

R_4 is 1,2-dihydroxypropyl and

R_{12} and R_{13} are independently of each other chosen from hydrogen and methyl.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein in compound of formula (I) R_1 is chosen from cyclohexylmethyl and cyclohexylethyl.

40. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said disorder associated with an increased NO level is chosen from:

(a) disorders characterized by pathological blood pressure decreases;

(b) inflammatory disorders;

(c) insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus;

(d) transplant rejection reactions;

(e) cardiovascular disorders;

(f) disorders of the nervous system/central nervous system;

(g) disorders of the kidney.

41. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the subject is a mammal.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the subject is a human.